

opportunity in the tumultuous decades of that era. The magnitude of these accomplishments, and countless others, cannot be understated. The League's efforts have played an integral role in shaping local communities throughout the United States, advancing many of the rights that Americans today take for granted.

The National Urban League continues to improve American society through programs that positively impact education and youth, health and quality of life, entrepreneurship and business development, workforce development, and housing. Through workshops, summer programs, hands-on-learning opportunities, and other endeavors, the League enriches the quality of life of African Americans of all ages.

Although we can take great pride in the many outstanding accomplishments of the National Urban League, its work is far from over. As part of its effort to galvanize greater action, the League recently began an initiative called "I AM EMPOWERED," a social mobilization campaign of volunteers to increase awareness of the League's efforts to achieve further progress in education, jobs, housing, and health care. With 100 years of experience behind them, the hard working and dedicated men and women of the National Urban League are well poised to carry forth its important mission through the next century of progress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution congratulating the National Urban League for its 100 outstanding years of service to our great nation.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO CHILE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker. I rise in support of H. Res. 1144, "Expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile as they plan for recovery and reconstruction" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative HINOJOSA.

As you know, on Saturday, February 27, 2010, a massive, 8.8 magnitude earthquake, one of the largest ever recorded, struck off of the coast of Chile. An estimated 2,000,000 people, including upwards of 1,500,000 displaced persons, have been directly affected by the earthquake, the tsunami, and its aftermath. As the casualties continue to grow, there is a great deal of extensive damage to highways,

bridges, apartments, and infrastructure, have led the government of Chile declaration of a 'state of catastrophe.' Since the initial earthquake, there have been over 100 aftershocks, which include 8 aftershocks registering above a 6.0 magnitude. These aftershocks continue to affect the coast and the rest of the country.

According to the United States Geological Survey, Concepcion, Chile's second largest city, was 70 miles from the earthquake's epicenter and suffered some of the worst damage. Thousands of its residents initially remained cut-off from the remainder of the country without any basic necessities, such as running water and electricity. The coastal town of Dichato and its 4,000 residents were among the hardest hit and is 80 percent destroyed. 80 percent of Talcahuano's 180,000 residents living on the Chilean coast were left homeless by the earthquake. Initial estimates of damages range from \$15,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000,000, and basic necessities across the country, including electricity, clean water access, telephone access, and communication systems continue to be restored on a progressive basis in many zones.

Chile's stringent building codes, which one local architect called 'our proud building standards,' as well as the Government of Chile's ability to implement them greatly mitigated the impact of this catastrophic natural event both in terms of casualties and physical damage to the infrastructure of this country. The Government of Chile has taken significant measures to maintain order and public security in the streets in order to prevent more widespread panic and chaos as damage assessments are made and relief is delivered.

America is again responding, and will continue to respond with immediate humanitarian assistance to help the people of this struggling island nation rebuild their livelihoods. I send my condolences to the people and government of Chile as they grieve once again in the aftermath of a natural disaster. As Chile's neighbor, I believe it is the United States' responsibility to help Chile recover, and build the capacity to mitigate against future disasters.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been highly involved in strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and countries abroad. I have worked to establish positive and productive partnerships with local development officials, non-profit organizations, and various leaders to establish a strong web of support for countries abroad. In collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus, I have been a continual advocate of providing assistance to various countries to strengthen their fragile democratic processes, continue to improve security, and promote economic development among other concerns such the protection of human rights, combating narcotics, arms, and human trafficking, addressing migration, and alleviating poverty.

Once again, I am devastated by the immeasurable tragedy that occurred in Chile.

Along with my colleagues, I hope to visit Chile in the near future to meet with their leaders and see what the United States can do to rebuild the shattered livelihoods.

MEREDITH HUGHES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Meredith Hughes. Meredith is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Meredith's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Meredith has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Meredith can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Meredith Hughes for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.